

THE DAILY HERALD.

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Literary Gleanings.

In the first batch, now on its way to England, of the 1,200 palm-leaf books of which the Royal Library of Mandalay consists, will be found five volumes of a Burmese work entitled "Potay-kay Ya-za-win," containing a history of the Portuguese in Burmah. It begins about the year 1520.

Thackeray was improvident, and his expenses nearly always exceeded his income. His avowed purpose in coming to America the second time, in 1856, was, to use his own expression, "to lay up a pot of money" for his two daughters, and yet it shows the impulsiveness and boyishness of the man that he returned to England in the midst of a prosperous engagement and with half his lecture dates unfulfilled.

Julian Hawthorne assails "Ouida" with all the vim of a man who means what he utters. Referring to her recent article in *The North American Review* upon female suffrage, says: "Why not draw the line at 'Ouida'?" There is nothing in her, mentally, morally, or physically, which any man or woman can respect. The dignity of human nature (such as it is) is lowered by the fact of her existence, and every overt act of the unfortunate creature has been a mischievous and unclean act.

The following unique notice of the English edition of General Grant's "Memoirs," cut from the first number of a new English literary monthly, the *Circulating Library*, and written in all seriousness, is quite worthy of Mark Twain in most hilarious moments. With childlike blandness the reviewer declares: "The biography of Grant will be interesting not only for the career of this great man himself, but as showing how people rise sometimes from obscurity to great positions through industry, ability and circumstances. Grant was the son of a farmer, who gave him a much better education than he had himself received. The Civil War obliged Grant to become a soldier, in which capacity he served for fourteen years, when he again took to farming, which he had to relinquish on account of ill-health. He then became successively estate agent, clerk in a store and Senator. In this last vocation he distinguished himself so highly that he was elected President."

Cholera and Water Supply.

In a recent letter to *Nature*, Mr. George Higgin, says that the epidemic of Asiatic cholera, which has been raging in Spain during the last two years, has furnished not a few interesting data as regards its connection with water supply. Mr. Higgin claims that cholera never became truly epidemic in any Spanish city in which there was a pure and good supply of water and proper means were used to guard the sources from pollution. In support of this idea he calls attention to the cities of Toledo, Seville, Malaga and Madrid in contradistinction to such places as Aranjuez, Saragossa, Granada and Valencia. Mr. Higgin shows very clearly that the fine condition and careful protection of the water supply of the cities first named was the main cause of the comparatively slight ravages of the disease within their limits. It seems, for example, that the ancient city of Toledo, into which the cholera entered in the summer of 1884, and did not finally leave until the autumn of 1885, furnished an official return of 200 cases of cholera, only-half of which were fatal. As Toledo has a population of over 20,000, the percentage of choleraic disease was about 1 per cent. of the population for the two seasons referred to. On the other hand, continues Mr. Higgin, the city of Granada, with a population of nearly 80,000 souls, is supplied with water by canals which are uncovered and exposed to all kinds of contamination. Through the streets the water is conducted in earthenware pipes, many of which are the original ones put down by the Moors before the conquest of the city by Ferdinand and Isabella. The cholera raged here with frightful results, says Mr. Higgin, the official number of cases reported being over 450 per day. No attempt was made, as was done at Toledo with such excellent results, to suppress the old water supply, and the epidemic took on alarming proportions in a very short time.

Some weeks ago a floating exposition was sent out by Germany. France has now fitted up the steamer Chateau-Lafitte, which will visit various foreign ports, with merchandise, wines and liquors, which will be sold and delivered at once to purchasers. The steamer is to be illuminated with electric lights. She sails for Trinidad. There is to be a bar and cafe on board. It will not be safe to visit the United States without procuring a license at each port. In prohibitory States there could be no sales.

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